

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) Method for the preparation of a biological fertilizer comprising:

subjecting whey to a first fermentation step;

subjecting the fermented whey to a filtration step;

adding a cellulose-rich carrier material to the filtered fermented whey at a ratio of fermented whey to carrier material of between 10 and 15; and

subjecting the mixture of cellulose-rich carrier material and filtered fermented whey to a second fermentation step.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, further comprising, prior to and/or during the first fermentation of the whey, the inoculation of the whey with a culture of microorganisms.

4. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the first fermentation is performed at a pH between 5 and 7.

5. - 6. (canceled)

7. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, further comprising the addition

of lime.

8. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the carrier material is a gum resin-poor carrier material.

9. (canceled)

10. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the carrier material is selected from the group consisting of saw dust, beech saw dust, oak saw dust, dried nettle, and combinations thereof.

11. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, further comprising the addition of trace elements, nutrients, minerals, growth hormones, stabilizers, organic compounds, and/or antibiotics.

12. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1 wherein the biological fertilizer is in a form selected from the group consisting of a powder, granules, a suspension, a dispersion, fibrous matter, a solution, a mixture, and combinations thereof.

13. (currently amended) Biological fertilizer comprising a cellulose-rich carrier material and a filtered fermented whey at a ratio of fermented whey to carrier material of between 10 and 15 obtained by a method according to claim 1.

14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) ~~The Composition for biologically fertilizing soil comprising a biological fertilizer obtained by a method according to claim [[1]] 13, wherein the carrier material is a gum resin-poor carrier material.~~

16. (currently amended) A method of [[for]] fertilizing a substrate for plant growth, comprising:

applying ~~the~~ [[a]] biological fertilizer obtained by a method according to claim 13 [[1]] to the substrate.

17. (previously presented) A method according to claim 16, wherein the substrate for plant growth is chosen from the group consisting of soil, vermiculite, glass fibers, rockwool, and aquaculture.

18. (currently amended) A method of [[for]] improving a soil composition and/or soil structure, comprising:

applying ~~the~~ [[a]] biological fertilizer obtained by a method according to claim 13 [[1]] to the soil composition and/or soil structure.

19. (currently amended) Method of [[for]] fertilizing soil comprising:

applying ~~the~~ [[a]] biological fertilizer obtained by a method according to claim 13 [[1,]] onto and/or into soil.

20. (currently amended) The biological fertilizer according to claim 13, wherein the carrier material is selected from a group consisting of saw dust, beech saw dust, oak saw dust, dried nettle, and combinations thereof Use of a composition according to claim 15 for fertilization of a substrate for plant growth by applying said composition to said substrate.

21. (currently amended) The biological fertilizer according to claim 13, further comprising trace elements, nutrients, minerals, growth hormones, stabilizers, organic compounds, and/or antibiotics A method for fertilizing a substrate for plant growth, comprising: applying a biological fertilizer obtained by a method according to claim 1 to the substrate.

22. (currently amended) A method of fertilizing Method for fertilizing soil comprising: applying a composition to obtained by a method according to claim 1 onto and/or into a substrate or soil, the composition including a cellulose-rich carrier material and a filtered fermented whey at a ratio of fermented whey to carrier material of between 10 and 15.

23. (new) The biological fertilizer according to claim 13, wherein the biological fertilizer is in a form selected from a group consisting of a powder, granules, a suspension, a dispersion, fibrous matter, a solution, a mixture, and combinations thereof.